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FREE INDIA

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UNION FINANCE MINISTER HAS PRESENTED

A DRESSED UP BUDGET

THE first Janata Budget is a continuation of the last year's Budget.

In his interim Budget, the former Swatantraite Finance Minister was protesting loudly that he was holding somebody else's baby. He promised to come forward within two months with a regular Budget which would give a new direction and "reflect our thinking and priorities".

On closer analysis, Patel must have found that he could hardly improve upon the last year's Budget. Hence, Madhu Limaye complains that the Janata Budjet has made only cosmetic changes on the Interim Budget which was prepared on the basis of the direction of the previous Government.

Last year, a very soft Budget was presented. The Plan outlay was increased and there was no matching back-up of additional resource mobilisation. In fact, tax concessions were given in personal income-tax and to the corporate sector. Development rebate was reintroduced under the name of investment allowance.

The Budget was sought to be balanced with borrowings against imaginary resources. This resulted in a massive expansion of 17 per cent in the money supply.

For the second year in succession, the Budjet has been sought to be balanced with borrowings against created money. The Budget has envisaged borrowing of Rs. 800 crores against foreign exchange reserves. The Fifth Plan had assumed borrowings of Rs. 600 crores against foreign exchange reserves in two years; but the Budget is drawing Rs. 800 crores in one year alone.

In 1976-77, there was a trade surplus of Rs. 72 crores. This year, there has to be a trade deficit of Rs. 800 crores so that the stipulated borrowing under this head does not have any inflationary impact. In fact, Rs 800 crores of trade deficit under the budgetary dispensation will be natural. In the normal course it would have been deflationary.

HIGHER BORROWINGS

As compared to the Interim Budget, the market borrowings in the regular Budget have been raised by Rs 110 crores. With the procurement running high and drop in the off-take of the public distribution system, the bank resources would remain tight. It will be more so with the reduction in the interest rates on deposits. As a result, the additional market borrowings will be against created money.

The regular Budget has also taken credit of Rs. 130 crores of borrowings against the impounded fund of the CDS. This year, as a result of the scrapping of the scheme of impounded additional dearness allowance, the money supply would expand by Rs. 450 crores as against a contraction of Rs 230 crores last year under the scheme. Also, the Centre will recover Rs 100 crores more from the Ways and Means advances to the States. This will compel the States to seek additional overdraft from the Reserve Bank.

Thus, if all these sums are totalled up, the expansionary impact of the Budget on the money supply will be about Rs 1600 crores and not a sum of Rs 72 crores which is the uncovered budgetary deficit. In other words, the budgetary operations alone will increase the money supply by about ten per cent.

A BIG LEAP

Another seven to eight per cent expansion could take place on account of credit expansion for food procurement, fertiliser trading and the private sector. Thus, the last year's experience will be repeated and there will be no respite from the inflationary pressures arising out of monetary mismanagement.

In order to appear to be giving a new direction, Patel increased the maximum rate of income-tax from 66 per cent to 69 per cent, and the Wealth Tax from 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent. It is to be seen how many people will be impressed by this tinkering.

But, in the field of corporate taxes, he has taken a big leap forward from the last year's Budget. He has extended investment allowance to all industries, barring a very few. It is estimated that this would mean a gift of over Rs 200 crores to the corporate sector.

In his "Part A" speech, the Finance Minister made very loud noises about his Government making a clean break with the Plan priorities of the past. He said that employment-orientation would be given the topmost priority. Experts agree that tax-concessions like investment allowance encourages capital-intensive techniques rather than labour-intensive techniques.

An expert Working Group under Prof. D. T. Lakdawala, the present Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, went into this question. If the calculations of the Group are updated, the incentives given by the Centre and State Governments would amount to subsidising the capital investment to the extent of 28.1 per cent in the developed areas and between 62.8 per cent and 71 per cent in the backward areas. When such handsome capital subsidy is available in one form or the other, who will not go in for capital-intensive technology?

WHITHER SWEDESHI?

Now, let us examine another Janata commitment, namely, promotion of the swadeshi. He has levied 10 per cent excise duty on indigenous watches but reduced the import duty from 120 per cent to 50 per cent on foreign watches. The import of watches was banned earlier, but now they will be imported to meet the competition of smugglers. But where are the smugglers? Haven't they given a pledge to the Lok Nayak that they were bidding good-bye to smuggling?

When Indian watches become costlier and imported watches cheaper, who will buy the Indian watches? Gandhiji fought all his life to give protection to Indian industry, but those who claim to be his true heirs are doing just the opposite.

It is most unfortunate that this is being done in case of watches. The Hindustan Machine Tools is producing quality watches. Instead of using foreign exchange for importing watches, why not use the foreign exchange to expand indigenous production? HMT's proposal to expand the capacity of watch manufacture is being shuttled from one Ministry to another for the last one year. The Finance Ministry is most reluctant to release free foreign exchange for the project.

Similarly, when there is a large unutilised capacity in capital goods industry, the Finance Minister has announced that the Government would "allow the import of certain selected items of capital goods without prior scrutiny from the indigenous angle".

AUSTERITY

The gulf between the profession and practice is as wide as of the previous regime. While export-led growth strategy is reflected in words, the Finance Minister has promised to encourage modern industry in the field of exports. Specific investments for exports is precisely the export-led growth strategy. On top of it, he has provided Rs 263 crores for export subsidy.

Now to the Janata's claim to austerity. Among the commodi-

(Contd. on page 7)

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

As I believe that silent prayer is often a mightier force than any overt act, in my helplessness I continuously pray in the faith that the prayer of a pure heart never goes unanswered.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY July 3, 1977

BUREAUCRACY BEWARE

Mr. M.G. Ramachandran has taken over as Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. He has chosen a good team with bright academic record and some with experience.

After the fall of the Congress governments at the centre and in the Hindi-states of the North, the successor Janata governments have started a "witch hunt" of the worst type to camouflage their incapacity to present a convincing economic policy. In the process, officers have been transferred on a big scale. It looks as though a new type of "spoils system" is being introduced in Indian democracy.

Here in Tamilnadu, many of the ministers in the AIADMK Cabinet are new to power. And they can be depended upon for ensuring corruption-free administration. But as the pressure from the partymen for favours mounts, some may succumb. Here the bureaucrat must be careful since the politician, when he fails, is always tempted to use the officials as scapegoats.

In this connection, a recent statement of Smt. Nandini Satpathy, former Chief Minister of Orissa, facing an enquiry, is worth recapitulation. She is reported to have said that there was "no doubt an implicit obligation is on the executive to act not merely according to the letter of the law but according to its spirit as well". And she asked: "How can the political executive be criticised for passing an order under a law which it was required to pass ?"

She warned: "Political witch hunters would do well to take note of the fact that the basic order was passed by the official executive and the legality of this order was judged by the judiciary. The Minister is merely a link in the chain."

She clarified: It was not as if a Chief Minister or a Home Minister asked officials to arrest a person and the official obliged. If that happened, the official concerned had not acted according to law and must be held accountable for dereliction of duty. "To hold the political executive responsible for implementing a law passed by the legislature amounts to denigration of the parliamentary system", she added.

This is intended for the witch hunters in the Janata Party. But the bureaucracy also has something in it to learn.

Youth And Rural Reconstruction

Villages Adopted

The National Service Scheme units in the country has adopted nearly 2,000 villages for development. This is in accordance with the decision to involve students in rural development in a sustained manner.

Rural reconstruction forms the theme of the special camping programme of the NSS from the current year. In addition, colleges and universities located in cities have adopted slum areas for intensive NSS activities.

Roads Laid

Twenty-five national service volunteers of the Government College, Phulbani (Orissa) have during their 10-day camp, constructed an approach road, 300 feet long and 10 feet wide connecting a Harijan Basti in the Gudari village near Phulbani town. The camp was organised under the 'Youth for Rural Reconstruction' programme.

They cleaned the whole Harijan Basti, dug model pits for preparing compost out of the garbage and disinfected three wells in the village.

Course of River Changed

Over 150 students of the Higher Secondary School of Wimberlyganj, in their joint endeavour to help the villages, completed a project and re-directed the flow of a small rivulet in the South Andamans. Earlier, it used to cause extensive damage to the standing crops during the rains. Within a few days of their launching the project, they cleared the debris, which obstructed its course and forced the river to flow through its original course. They constructed an embankment along its course, so that the rivulet does not overflow during the rains and damage crops in the fields.

Project Through Savings

A local youth movement has grown in Quilon district of Kerala State, to find resources for the major irrigation project of the State, Kallada Irrigation Project. Operation "Project Through Savings" began with 37 students of the D.B. College, Sasthamkotta. They divided themselves into groups to discuss and finalise how youth power could be used for creating consciousness among the rural people to save for the project. Moving in batches, the students were able to collect and reach the target of Rs. one crore in a few days.

Students Work For Villages

A wind of change is sweeping across a tiny village Jadar of Idar tehsil in Sabarkantha district (Gujarat) after a ten-day long NSS Shibir conducted recently at the village.

The college students from S.S. Metha Arts & M.M. Patel Commerce College of Himatnagar conducted various cultural activities besides leaving behind some memorable model works during the 'Youth for Rural Reconstruction' camp.

They also conducted baby health, clean house, clean street, bhajan and caligraphic contests to inject enthusiasm among the village folk.

The students prepared 108 sucking pits and installed 30 smokeless ovens. The students also undertook a socio-economic survey of 70 families. They decorated the village with 70 slogan paintings at vantage points.

A Progressive Farmer

Many farmers in Keelsevalampadi in South Arcot district have taken up the groundnut cultivation emulating the practices adopted by Shri C. Venkatesan (26), a progressive small farmer of the village. Shri C. Venkatesan had taken up groundnut cultivation in a portion of his 8-acre piece of dry land. A nationalised bank provided him a loan of Rs. 5,000 for the same. On the advice of officials of the Agricultural Department, he is now owning TMV-10, a high yielding variety and reaping bumper crops.

Successful Dairy Farm

Shri P.G. Sukumaran, 26, a first class Chemistry graduate and the first graduate of Pudur Agraharam village in Salem district in Tamil Nadu, is now a successful dairy farmer with the help of a loan of Rs. 18,500 from the Salem branch of the State Bank of India. He got this loan in July 1976 and within a few months he got another loan of Rs. 5,000 from the bank and bought two more cows. He is now supplying 60 litres of milk per day to the TNDDC Society, Salem. He underwent three months training at Madhavapuram Milk Colony.

Graduate Tailor

"Graduate Tailor" is the proud legend on the signboard hanging outside the shop of Shri N. Ranganathan, 25, a history graduate of V.H.S.V. College of Virudhuagar. Belonging to an agricultural family with small dry land holdings at Dharamapuri, his parents could not manage to educate Ranganathan further after pre-University class.

Shri Ranganathan wanted to continue his studies and he decided to earn while learning. He decided to undertake tailoring along with the first year degree course. He was given encouragement for his new idea by his classmates, staff and Principal of the same college regularly and only idle time was used for stitching. He was earning up to Rs. 150/- per month when he successfully completed his degree course.

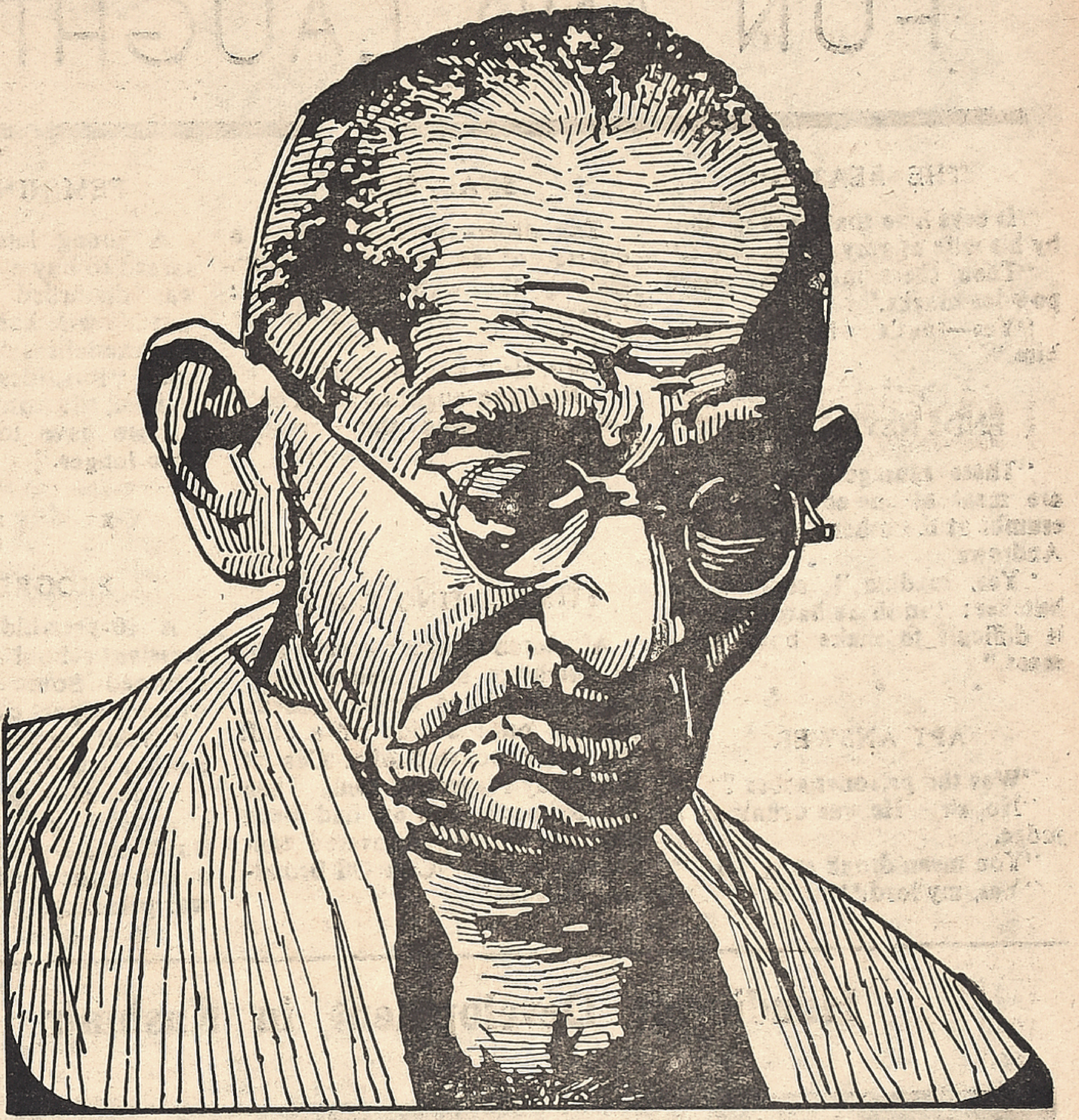
Immediately after education, his parents arranged for his marriage. Thereafter, he went on applying for jobs in Government and private companies. But he could not succeed. Ranganathan decided to employ himself.

He approached the Indian Bank for loan for his own profession of tailoring, and got a loan of Rs. 1000/- with which he got two tailoring machines. Now, he gets a net earning of Rs. 350/- per month and maintains his family including three children. He has also employed two persons to assist him.

He is very prompt in paying back the instalments to the Bank with interest. A number of unemployed graduates visited his tailoring unit and they patronise him.

Obstinate Goodness

By S. T. KASIRAJAN



MAHATMA Gandhi was the simplest of the simple and the gentlest of the gentle. A good little man he was, as Viceroy Lord Halifax called him.

When our countrymen had to rise as one man to fight the British empire, the name Mahatma was a *mantra*, by which people joyfully allowed themselves to be bound so as to rise above their normal selves for a whole generation.

But to Gandhiji himself the name was more a hindrance than a help. In South Africa, they had called him "Bhai", i.e., brother, and he liked it. "There was a sweet flavour about the name". When he visited Kashi Vishvanath before the days of his mahatmahood he could move about freely and observe things at close quarters. But later he could do nothing of the sort, for people, jostling to have *darshan* of him, would not allow him to have *darshan* of the deity. "The woes of *Mahatmas* are known to *Mahatma* alone", he bewails.

And the title today keeps people away from him, for *Mahatmas* are not for ordinary mortals! The title acts as a mask to hide his ordinary sterling worth. It hides the features of a simple good man like many another we happily come across in life. We refrain from piercing this mask, as something too arduous for us. He is a Mahatma and we are not. We revere him from a distance and go our own way downward.

Had he not entered politics, he would have remained a happy good little soul somewhere, shepherding people, by sheer force of character and winsome qualities. The purpose of his whole life was to go ahead and lead by example, not to issue fiats.

PHOENIX EXPERIENCE

His first night in the Phoenix settlement - he was then five and thirty — was one to remember. The book *Unto This Last* lent him by Polak, and read on his journey, had fascinated him. Its ideas possessed him and had to be immediately reduced to practice. So *Indian Opinion* had to be removed to a farm. The out-of-the-way place, Phoenix, was chosen. The first night there was memorable. The engine refused to work. An engineer from Durban was called in. Even his efforts failed. West, his coworker, was in despair, not knowing what to do. In tears he told Gandhiji that the paper could not go in time. Gandhiji, comforting West, said that they could try the hand-wheel. But this required relays of four men each, and their men were all dead tired and West did not have the heart to trouble them more. But then there were carpenters asleep on the press floor. They were not their men, of course. But would they not help in an emergency? Gandhiji himself woke up the carpenters and sought their cooperation which came forth with grace.

Gandhiji partnered the carpenters. All the rest joined turn by turn. It was 7 A.M. Still there was a good deal to do. Gandhiji suggested that the Engineer might now be asked to try to start the engine.

The engineer woke up and went into the engine room. And lo and behold! the engine worked and the whole press went into hilarious joy.

GIFTS : NO

His first visit to the Congress Session was also memorable. The year was 1901. He was aged 32. The Congress met at Calcutta under the presidentship of Sir Dinshaw Wacha. Gandhiji was put up in Ripon College. His eagle eyes noticed everything happening there. "The delegates would do nothing themselves. 'Volunteer, do this, Volunteer, do that,' were their constant orders".

Gandhiji pointed to the volunteers the stinking state of the latrines. They said point-blank: "This is not our work. it is the scavenger's work".

Gandhiji asked for a broom. The Volunteers gazed at him in amazement, as he did the job himself.

"I saw that, if the Congress session were to be prolonged, conditions would be quite favourable for the outbreak of an epidemic".

Another incident is worth recalling. The year was 1896. He was aged 27. He was to return to India. In grateful recognition of his selfless services, the Indian community in South Africa presented him with costly gifts, including ornaments in gold and diamond. He spent a sleepless night pacing the ground and debating within himself. He decided to forgo the gifts.

But would his wife agree? Could he persuade his young wife? He expected no difficulty from his children. He made them his attorneys to plead with their mother!

Children and husband succeeded in extorting a consent from Kasturbai. A trust-deed was prepared. The gifts were deposited in a bank. They were to be used for the service of the community.

"I have never since regretted the step", writes Gandhiji, "and as the years have gone by, my wife has also seen its wisdom. It has saved us from many temptations. I am definitely of opinion that a public worker should accept no costly gifts".

Never did he consider himself too big or too busy to attend to detail. What minute inquiries do we find in his letters, about weight and diet of countless correspondents? Did he not answer promptly and precisely every letter he received, whether from troublesome opponents or nameless nobodies?

LOVED AND RESPECTED

He knew typing. He had four Indian clerks to attend to his work in Johannesburg. They knew no typewriting. So he began teaching two of them typewriting. One of these he trained as an accountant. When the Phoenix farm grew, he had to make arrangement for the education of the children here. He acted as school master too. The first place was given to the culture of the heart or the building of character. Vocational training was not forgotten. On Tolstoy farm he made it a rule that the youngsters should not be asked to do what the teachers themselves did not do. So the children worked cheerfully, they learnt cheerfully. Gandhiji taught them Tamil and Urdu. He knew Pope's excellent Tamil handbook. He taught the students the Tamil script and the rudiments of grammar. "My pupils knew that they could any day beat me in Tamil conversation, and when Tamilians, not knowing English, came to see me, they became my interpreters. I got along merrily, because I never attempted to disguise my ignorance from my pupils. In all respects I showed myself to them exactly as I really was. Therefore inspite of my colossal ignorance of the language I never lost their love and respect".

Recollecting his life in South Africa, he remembers his co-workers and praises them with no trace of jealousy or small-mindedness.

One sample. It is about his steno-typist Miss Schlesin. "She was about seventeen when she came to me......I have often signed without revision letters typed by her, as I considered her English to be better than mine, and had the fullest confidence in her loyalty...Her sacrifice was great......Her courage was equal to her sacrifice......She is one of

(Contd. on page 5)

FUN AND LAUGHTER

THE REASON

"It says here that he was shot by his wife at very close range."

"Then there must have been powder marks."

"Yes—that's why she shot him."

x x x

ENDS NEVER MEET

"These sausages you sent me are meat at one end and bread-crumbs at the other," said Mrs. Andrews.

"Yes, madam," replied the butcher: "in these hard times it is difficult to make both ends meat."

* * *

APT ANSWER

"Was the prisoner sober ?"

"No, sir. He was drunk as a judge."

"You mean drunk as a lord."

"Yes, my lord."

SNAIL SLOW

The diner-out had waited a quarter of an hour for his soup. Calling the waiter he asked: "Have you ever been to the Zoo ?"

"No, sir," was the reply.

"Well you ought to go. You'll enjoy watching the tortoises whiz past."

* * *

STIMULATING COPY !

A veteran theater owner sought to stimulate his potential audience with a huge announcement, painted on the side of a cliff. His copy boasted of a 'Cast of Broadway Players." Only when the painter's rigging had been lowered was it discovered that the sign read; "Cast Off Broadway Players."

FEMININE LOGIC

A young husband who had agreed to buy a vacuum cleaner was disturbed when he found that his wife had ordered the de-luxe model instead of the standard. "But, dear," his wife explained, "it won't cost any more! All we have to do is to pay a little longer."

x x x

PROGRESSIVE !

A 10-year-old pupil at a progressive school in Washington returned home one afternoon with his report card.

"What are your marks ? ' his mother asked.

"I got 28 in geography, 32 in arithmetic, and 35 in spelling-But," and a proud smile swept over his face, "I got 95 in post-war planning."

FORWARD LOOKING

Prospective father-in-law to his daughter's young man: "And what are your prospects?"

"Oh, pretty good ! Unless your daughter has misled me ?" was the reply.

* * *

NOT SO QUICK !

Annoyed on account of the non-delivery of a new car he ordered, a man wired the President of the company: "Cancel order immediately."

He received the reply: "Regret cannot cancel immediately. You must take your turn."

* * *

INQUEST !

The lecturer was emphasizing the demoralizing effect of divorce.

"Love," he said, "is a quest: a proposal, a request; the giving of a daughter in marriage a bequest; and marriage itself the conquest. But what is divorce ?"

Voice from the audience: "The inquest."

* * *

HIS HANDICAPS !

An employer, interviewing an applicant for a job, asked him if he had any physical handicaps.

"Yes, I guess I have," he said hesitatingly.

Asked what they were, he answered:—

"A wife and two children."

* * *

EXACT DEFINITION !

An instructor in physics in a High School said to a young student whose vocabulary was not very extensive: "What is a vacauum ?"

The reply was: "I have it in my head, but I can't express it."

* * *

PLAYING SCHOOL

One sister is just crazy about school. The other and younger one, is to put it mildly, considerably less enthusiastic.

The other day the older sister suggested: "Let's play school."

"All right," returned the younger one, grudgingly, "but let's play I'm absent."

x x x

SHE-BEARS !

Mr. Briggs: 'I don't like the looks of our new girl."

Mrs. Briggs: "But, dearest, think of the reputation for cooking she bears."

Mr. Briggs: "But who on earth wants to eat she bears ?"

x x x

GRATITUDE !

Wife (after receiving a new skunkfur coat from her husband): "I don't see how such a nice coat can come from such a foul-smelling beast."

Husband: "I don't mind not being thanked, but I do ask for a little respect."

Handicraft Development in Kashmir

KASHMIR is not only famous for its summer resorts but is equally well known all over the world for its beautiful and quality handicraft products.

The basic economy of the people of this beautiful valley depends mainly on the handicrafts produced there. Each and every village of this state has a number of expert artisans.

For the development of the handicraft industry in this state the government has provided a wide range of incentives and subsidies.

The Khadhi and Village Industries Department has extended financial assistance to various Cooperative societies and also to individual artistes.

The Kashmir Dastkar Anjuman has rendered appreciable service for the development of Village and handicraft industries. It has established a number of spinning and weaving centres which turned out products worth Rs. 21,54,000, last year.

Mr. Sundaram: People's Collector

- VPJ -

SUN was slowly rising up on the bright burlap in the east, with its cruel hand of scorching rays. The road was no pendent lane ; because high echelons in the district administration reside there, occupying mansions with sprawling grounds dotted with drought resistant creepers and flowering plants.

Totally I am a stranger to this road and Tirunelveli district as well. I glanced at my watch ; it was eight, my time to call on the District Collector. I swerved to the left and entered the main gate leading to Collector's Bungalow. To my surprise I found scores of people standing in batches. A village bird, as I am, I have had occasions to tread into Collector's Bungalows but such a crowd was rarely seen.

Willy-nilly, I suffer from a mania called Curiosity. My inquisite mind steamed out. I asked an old man why so much crowd while the Collector might have hardly finished his morning oblutions. Pat came the reply "No, sir. Our Collector is God-send. He is good to goody ; responsive to the needy and the meak. He hears us, receives us, particularly the villagers even at 7.30 in the evening at his Bungalow".

I retorted "It is nothing but burlesque. Collector may give you interview. Does he give you what you ask for". "Probably, you are new to our district", he said. "You do not know our Collector, Sundaram. He is for the people", replied the old man with confidence and joy.

Mr. Sundaram has an inherent love for mingling with people and studying their habits, attitude and standard of life. No wonder that his official position as head of the dirtrict has unleashed ample opportunities to meet, mingle and mitigate the sufferings of villagers. Endowed with rich experience in welfare schemes planning and execution as Director of Social Welfare, the Thirunelveli Collector, Mr. V. Sundaram, IAS, has opened new vistas in administering the affairs of the district. A randon study of the district peculiarities makes clean breast of the fact that mass contact, not in the conventional way but by indentifying the felt needs and understanding in depth the villagers' procilvities and ethos, would spark off a new wave of public enthusiasm and participation in nation building efforts.

Collector Sundaram and his wife enjoying breakfast with his Harijan host.

Mr. Sundaram has given new pep and fervour to "Mass Contact" programme. He goes to villages, not with a paraphernalia but as people's servant, purposely interested in hearing their grievances and finding solutions to them, either on the spot if the matter is not complicated or on his return to headquarters. His tent at Athanur near Tuticorin was a mini-Secretariat of District Administration, working day and night, attracting a bevy of men and women for whom a District Collector is more than a Minister. He received 800 petitions at one Camp. Petitioners returned with a smile for, they knew that their Collector would not send their applications to cold storage. A widow received a Sewing Mechine within one hour of her submission of application. True, Mr. Sundaram's repertoire in Mass Contact Programme suffuses the district.

His 'Padayatra' to villages. with his team of department officials is a unique administrative measure deserving to be emulated by other district administrators wielding high executive powers. Mr. Sundaram, it is no exaggeration, if I venture to say, is a pace setter in this 'Janata' type of bringing the executive to the doors of the villages. To a pessimist 'Padayatra' by a District Collector may look odd. But I am not a doubting Thomas. Padayatra creates congenial atmosphere and the long distance between the people and the Collector is reduced, by any physical measure, and the rapport built oils the wheels of the district administration for better public service. A better bridge of understanding between the officials and villagers is built and communication is strengthened. His 'Padayatra' to villages like Athanur, Kattunaickenpatti, Eabothumvendran, Thisaiyanvilai, Korampallam, Kalangarai and Karikoil testifies that the people are the masters of the bureaucracy and the bureaucrats are public servants. Mr. Sundaram really believes in the dictum that the executive is an instrument for bettering human life and serving the nation.

A Villager sleeping on the veranda gets up to see his District Collector standing in front of him flanked by other officials and village leaders. The Collector asked the old man if he had any problem. The question of Mr. Sundaram had a personal touch and the villager, with folded hands, said he was satisfied with such a surprise visit of his Collector to his door-steps.

The Collector goes to a village and joins the cultural troupe playing 'Karagam'. He puts on his shoulder the 'Mrithangam' and plays diligently to the delight of the villagers and accompaniment of Nadaswaram. The village is agog. Women in Kalangarai stand with fingers on their cheek. They murmer "Namma Collector Romba Nallavar. Entha Collector Ippadi Nammoda ondi Palakinaru" meaning "Our Collector is a good man. Never before has a Collector come to us and migled with us".

Truly, the people of the district are with the Collector and his activities are highly commended by all in various walks of life in the district.

Mr. V. Sundaram, I.A.S., is full of enthusiasm and energy for work among rural masses whose welfare is his first love, whatever his position in the steel frame of Indian Administrative Service. Burly in physique but suave in words, Mr. Sundaram is a lively communicator who can easily win over the hearts of the people. His short tenure as Collector of Tirunelveli district has won him the acclaim of all sections of people. His unassuming stance in matters of public interest and the speed with which he takes decision in cases of appeal and representations are the secrets of his success.

BE INDIAN

BUY INDIAN

From page 3

Obstinate Goodness

the few women I have been privileged to come across, with a character as clear as crystal and courage that would shame a warrior".

SOLICITOUS AND GENTLE

If he was a stern taskmaster, he was a compassionate one. If he did not spare his coworkers, neither did he spare himself. And so all-round cheerfulness prevailed wherever he was. His unbounded love for others made him ever solicitous, ever gentle. An incident during a visit to Poona on the death of Gokhale throws a flood of light on the man. Travelling third and reaching Kalyan quite done up, Gandhiji and Maganlal took some water from the station waterpipe and had their bath, when Kaul of the Servants of India Society camp up. "He (Kaul) offered to take my wife to the second class bath room. I hesitated to accept the courteous offer. I knew that my wife had no right to avail herself of the second class bath room. But I ultimately connived at the impropriety. This, I know, does not become a votary of truth. Not that my wife was eager to use the bath room, but a husband's partiality for his wife got the better of his partiality for truth. The face of truth is hidden behind the golden veil of *maya*, says the *Upanishad*." Gandhiji was indeed harder on himself than on others which is correct but uncommon.

"One step is enough for me", he used to repeat the words of Cardinal Newman. One step led to the next step, and so on. He would ask his ailing wife to give up salt and pulses. If she refused, he would himself vow to give them up without any medical advice for one year ! And it would last for ten years. To her entreaties to take back the vow, his answer was :

"I can not retract a vow seriously taken. And it is sure to benefit me, for all restraint, whatever prompts it, is wholesome for me. You will therefore leave me alone. It will be a test for me and a moral support to you in carrying out your resolve".

"You are too obstinate. You will listen to none," she said, and gave him up.

Yes, Gandhiji would listen to none. He was obstinate : he was obstinate when he was young. He was obstinate when he was old. He was obstinately good, obstinately persevering, obstinately solicitous, obstinately himself living his own life according to his light, caring less for the opinion than for the welfare of others. The road was long and strait like a razor's edge. But he walked on it because he had reduced himself to a zero. This placed him among the gods, for there, as Thiruvalluvar says, he who humbly pursues truth belongs.

Courtesy : Swarajya

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

FAVOURABLE period to expand your business activity. Important changes are indicated both in domestic set up and also in business this month. You should be prepared to utilise this opportunity to improve your prospects. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investment for some more time. Avoid friction with family members. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Favourable days : 4th & 5th.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

YOU should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Avoid friction with partners and associates. Financial position will improve. You can not expect much cooperation from your family members. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Change of place is indicated for some. You may be hearing from your relative with whom you have lost contact some time back. Favourable days : 6th & 7th.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to get complete relief. Financial position will not be satisfactory. Avoid speculative investments. You will be able to solve some of your problems by the end of this month. Matters relating to transport and communication requires attention. Legal matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Favourable days : 8th & 9th.

For The Week 3rd July To 9th July 1977

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

FAVOURABLE period continues for some more time. You should be able to finalise partnership deals favourably. Health will improve. Financial position will be satisfactory. You should try to expand your business. Family members will be cooperative. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Avoid friction with associates. Favourable days : 5th & 6th.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

YOU will be able to solve some of your problems with the cooperation of your family members. Matters relating to brothers and sisters could be finalised. You may be hearing from your friends with whom you have lost touch some time back. You may have to undertake a long distance travel. Favourable days : 7th & 8th.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

FAVOURABLE period continues. You should make best use of this opportunity to finalise important transactions. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Avoid long distance travel for some more time. Health will be well maintained. Partnership, matters could be finalised favourably. Favourable days : 8th & 9th.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. Financial position will improve. You can expect cooperation from your family members. You should also try to expand your business activities. Promotional possibilities are bright. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Health requires attention. Matters relating to brothers and sisters could be finalised favourably. Favourable days : 7th & 8th.

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

MIXED results are indicated. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Financial position will not be satisfactory. You should try to expand your business activity. You will be able to implement your plans by the end of this month. Promotional possibilities are bright. With tact and extra work you will be able to get recognition in your office. But avoid misunderstanding with coworkers. Favourable days : 6th & 7th.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Health will be well maintained. Business will expand. Promotional possibilities are bright. You may be given more attractive and responsible job in the near future. Change of place is indicated for some. Matters relating to children requires attention. Favourable days : 8th & 9th.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Avoid friction with partners and associates. Financial position will improve. You can not expect much cooperation from your family members. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Change of place is indicated for some. You may also have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadrapada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadrapada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

★

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

FAVOURABLE period. You should proceed further without any hesitation to implement your plans. You will be able to overcome the minor difficulties this week. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Financial position will improve. Partnership matters could be finalised. Promotional possibilities are bright. But avoid arguments with superiors. Favourable days : 5th & 6th.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

MIXED results are indicated. You may be hearing from relatives and friends with whom you have lost touch some time back. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Property matters could be finalised favourably. But avoid arguments with family members. Matters relating to children requires attention. There is no major change in the official atmosphere. Favourable days : 7th & 8th.

They Didn't Sail

More than a quarter of the crew of the American nuclear attack submarine Los Angeles had to be replaced when she recently put to sea for trials. The reason was the detention of 33 seamen following allegations that they had been involved in drug activities.

From Page 1

A Dressed Up Budget...

ties on which excise duty has been cut are hi-fi musical systems, stereos, tape-recorder-cum-radios, toffies, candies, etc. On the other hand, excise duty on bidis have been increased. There is a large number of tax proposals on textiles. The net effect of these proposals will be that the incidence of duties on fine and super-fine cloth will be reduced and it will be increased on the medium varieties.

He has also exempted the powerloom sector from the excise levy. It is well known that powerlooms in most cases are front organisations of the big textile industry. The complete exemption of the powerlooms will put the handloom sector to disadvantage in its competition with the former.

The Janata's commitment to self-reliance is as skin-deep as that of the previous regime. The economy has now reached a stage where it should be possible to dispense with foreign aid. The foreign exchange reserves are now of the order of Rs 4,000 crores and are constantly increasing. Food stocks total 18 million tonnes.

FOREIGN AID

A break-through in exports has been achieved since for five years successively they have been increasing at the average annual rate of 25.5 per cent. Last year, a trade surplus of Rs 72 crores was achieved. Why, then, should there be the need for foreign aid except for debt servicing? Yet, the Budget shows that the Janata Government intends to continue to seek foreign aid. In the Budget, there is no cut in the estimates of foreign aid.

In order to make out a case for imports, the Government is planning massive imports, even if they hurt indigenous production. We have already mentioned the case of the watches. The planned massive import of 14 lakh bales of cotton also comes in the same category. We had achieved self sufficiency in cotton. But later cotton prices were made unremunerative for the growers. As a result, the area under cotton declined and cotton shortages re-emerged.

PUBLIC SECTOR: A BIG CUT

It is rather strange that while the Finance Ministry resisted every proposal for remunerative prices to Indian growers, it is willingly subsidising foreign cotton growers. The Budget provides Rs 63 crores as subsidy on imported cotton in 1977-78 as against Rs 11 crores in 1976-77. The Finance Ministry also got scuttled the state and cooperative trading in cotton.

The Finance Minister makes a big song and dance about the primacy of agriculture and the outlay on agriculture and allied services. But the increase works out to be just one per cent as compared to the Plan prepared by the previous Government. On the other hand, the outlay on public sector has been cut—steel from Rs 576.49 crores to Rs 530.45 crores; coal from Rs 247 crores to Rs 232.55 crores fertilisers from Rs 318 crores to Rs 306 crores; and machinery and engineering industries from Rs 76.74 crores to Rs. 70.94 crores crores. The total cut in the public sector outlays on industry and minerals and transport and communication is Rs 166 crores.

The Finance Minister has clearly indicated a slow-down in the public sector. He has made known his Swatantraite intentions that the budgetary resources for the public sector would be progressively reduced and "resources for industrial growth will have to be found increasingly by enterprises themselves".

This shift in resources allocation will certainly starve the public sector and shunt its growth. Neither in his Budget speech nor in the pre-Budget survey, the increasing role of the public sector has been recognised.

It was Sanjay Gandhi who had mounted an attack on the public sector within a month of the proclamation of Emergency through an interview to a Delhi magazine. Ironically, his wishes in this regard are being fulfilled by the Janata Finance Minister initiating a process of dismantling of the public sector.

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More Bananas By 1980

REPRESENTATIVES from banana exporting and importing countries have agreed on the need for an international accord on the banana trade.

Exporting countries declared that the agreement should be of the export quota type and should aim to achieve specified price objectives. Representatives of most importing countries also expressed their support for an export quota type of agreement, although some expressed doubts as to whether a quota arrangement would be technically feasible for a perishable commodity like bananas.

The delegates agreed that a banana agreement could bring a much needed stability in the market.

They noted that, although the banana market situation was now "reasonably stable", and that "a certain balance between supply and demand had been established", the medium-term outlook was not so favourable.

In 1980, FAO forecasts indicated, there would be "a considerable excess of supply over demand, resulting in downward pressure on banana prices".

The delegates expressed hope that during the second half of 1978 the working party would be able to present an advanced draft which could form the basis for the negotiation of an international agreement under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The session of the working party on elements of an international banana agreement was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The meeting was attended by 11 members of the working party and observers from 20 countries, the European Economic Community, the General agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The working party requested the FAO secretariat to elaborate a working draft of an agreement.

Banana Fibre: A Versatile Raw Material

HIGHER oil prices have increased the cost of Man-made fibres and made natural fibre increasingly interesting as an economic proposition. One such fibre is Manila hemp, which has long been popular with ropemakers to the shipping industry because of its resistance to seawater. The term Manila hemp is misleading, however. The raw material is the stem of a banana tree.

A survey recently conducted in Germany indicates that banana stem fibre is an even more versatile raw material than has hitherto been suspected. It can be used to manufacture rope and fabric, paper and board and even sheets of material for use in construction and form work.

One of the main objectives of the survey was to ascertain the time at which the raw material is best harvested. After the fruit has ripened the stem gradually dies and is taken apart by bacteria. Bacteria decay can help in processing the fibre, but quality is affected if the process has reached too advanced a stage.

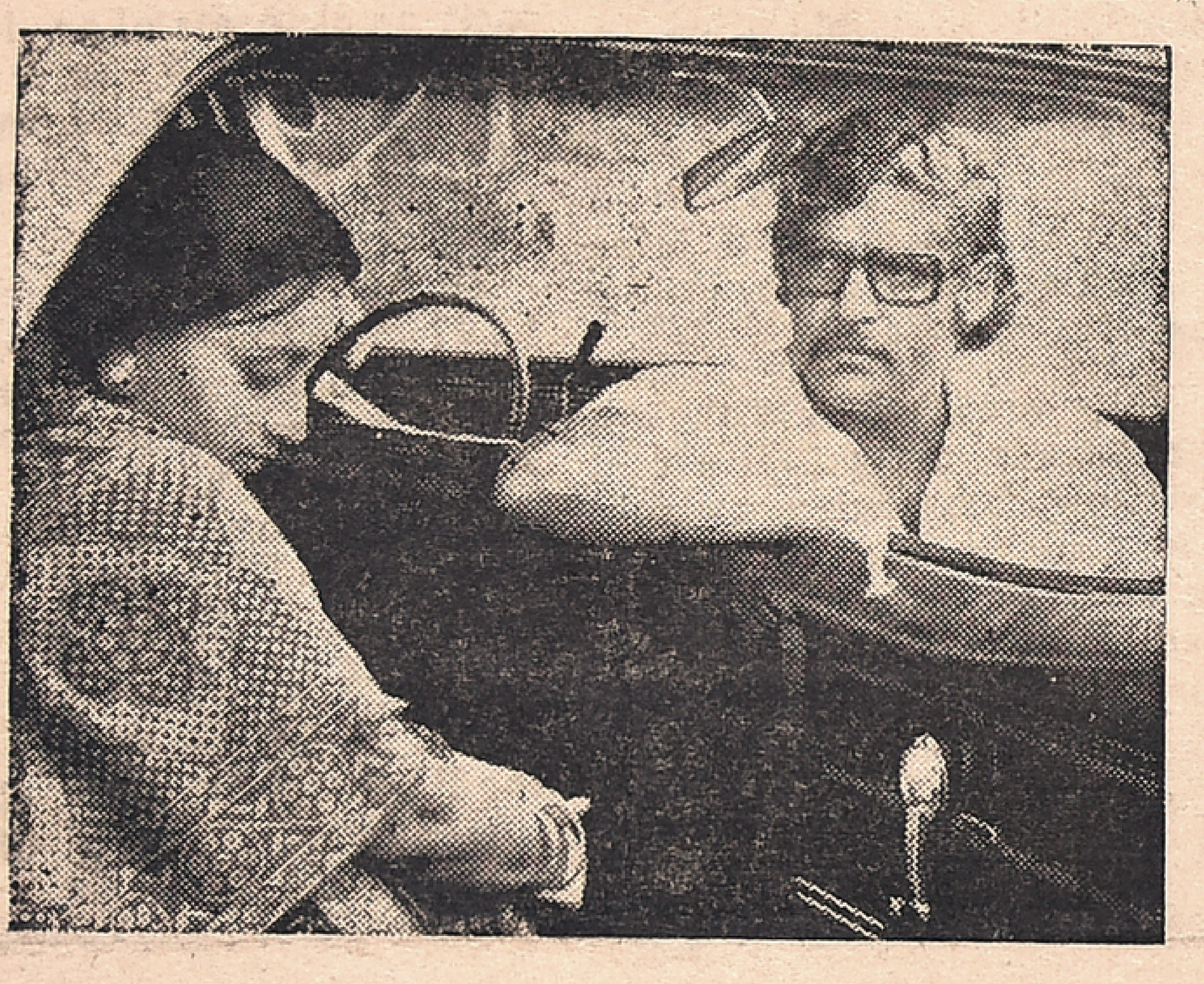
Further research was conducted into machine processing. Machinery used to process sisal, jute and manila fibre cannot be used indiscriminately to handle banana stem fibre. It must first be converted.

Fibre has undergone successful tests at the textiles research institute in Reutlingen, near Stuttgart, and could well be used alongside cotton plants and reeds. Banana stem fibre can only be exploited economically if grown in large quantities and processed by suitably converted machinery.

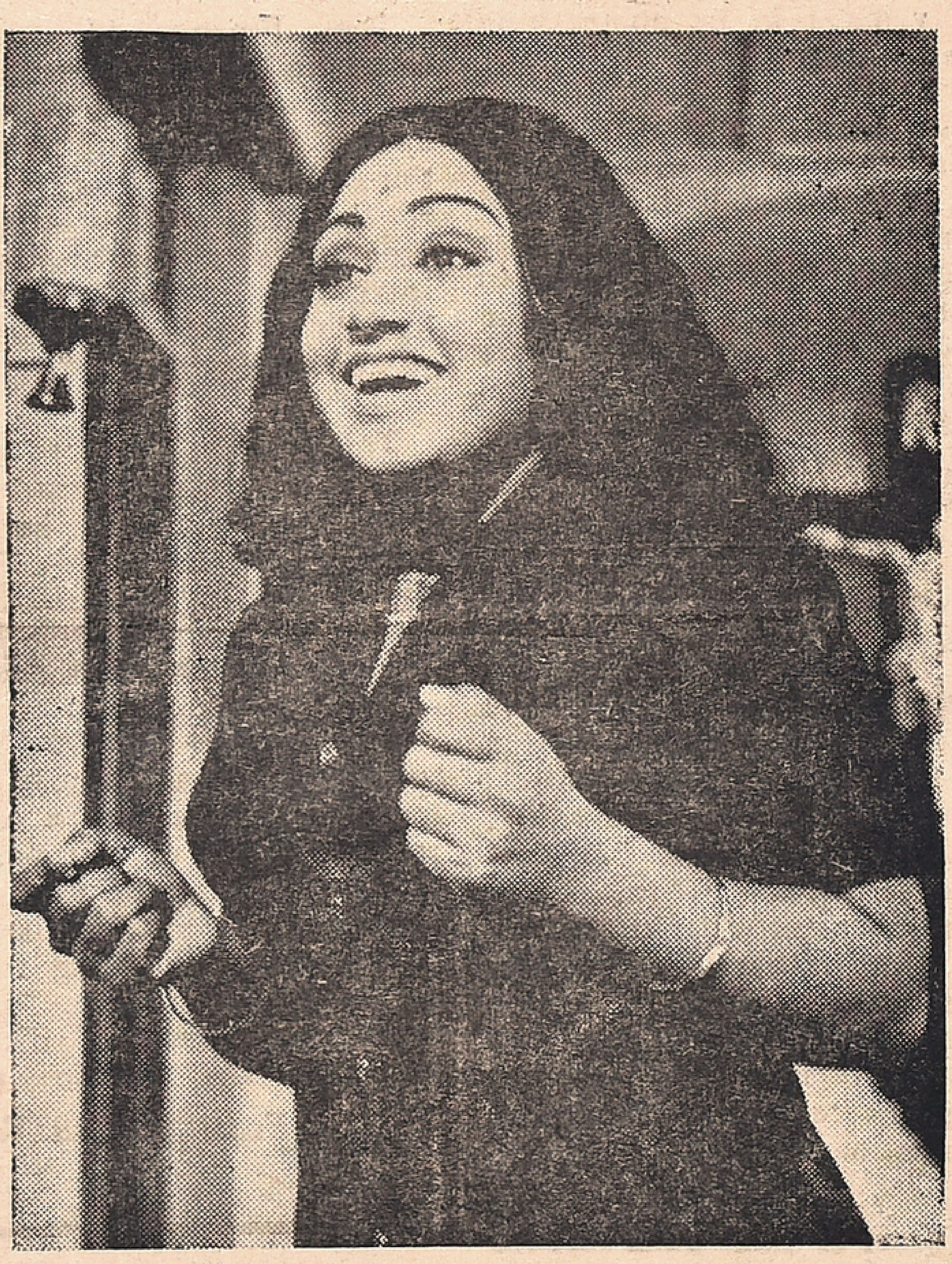
If paper and pulp prices continue to increase, the banana stem may well have a bright future as a raw material in paper and board manufacture. There are, when all is said and done, limits to the amount of wood that can be felled. But in the countries of origin banana stems may prove most useful as a raw material for composition board and furniture. Domestic demand for both is likely to increase by leaps and bounds.

FILM NEWS IN PICTURES

Sumitra as she appears in Sri Umachitra's "Raghupathi Ragava Rajaram".

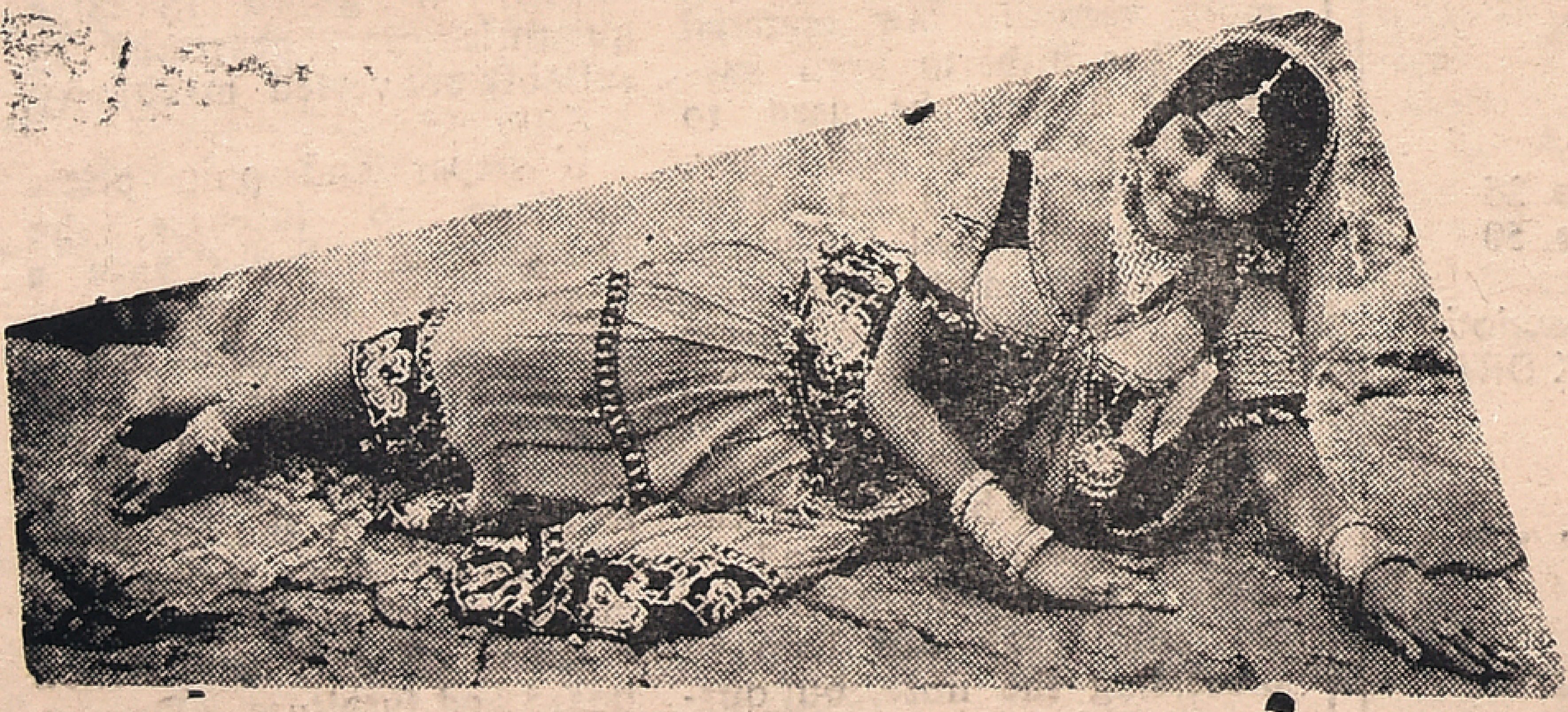


Lakshmi and Srikant in Jayakanthan's "SILA NERANGALIL SILA MANITHARGAL" which received the appreciation of one and all.



What is so funny that has made Pramela to let off a hysterical laugh in PAVATHIN SAMBALAM ? It is the maiden venture of G. R. V. Combines, directed by Durai.

Muthuraman as St. Antony in Nanjil Incorporated's "PUNITHA ANTHONIYAR" directed by Nanjil Durai.



Kavita in "KATRINILE VARUM GEETHAM" produced by Vijaya Bharkar Films and directed by SP. Muthuraman.

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